

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 17, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Hartford, Monday, Jany. 17th. (1867?) My dear Alec:

Many thanks for your letter received a little while ago. I enjoyed it so much only it put me into such a passion with my own letter to you, it was so nice and I felt mine such a poor exchange for it.

I am sorry indeed to have missed Miss Rogers, I should have liked to thank her for her kind note, but hope you did so for me.

I am glad you have such a proper appreciation of the benefits of living under my apron strings. This separation is very well if it teaches you to know when you are fortunate.

Thank you for telling me about your visit to Cambridge, I can imagine them all perfectly now.

I am so sorry you have so much work to do, and wish I could help you, I am getting almost tired of my holiday already, and shall be glad to go back to work, though I am enjoying myself here, they are all very kind, and I like them extremely. Josie and I went out to walk yesterday past the immense place of the inventer of the Colt Revolver. He made an immense fortune, and earned much fame and honor by that one little thing. It does seem ridiculous, I wonder if you will ever get half the money by a thing of infinitely greater real benefit to mankind. I should be quite content if you did, but not if you had only half the fame and honor, it would neither be just or fair I think. However whatever you do I will not write a memoir of you like the one his wife has written. Some things in it are beautiful, but it does not seem if Mrs. Colt could have possessed any deep feelings if she would

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blazon forth to the whole world what her husband said to her in the most private 2 manner, and on his death-bed. Neither do I see how she could talk of his great beauty. It may be perfectly true he was a handsome man, but he was so near to her it is almost as if she were praising her own good looks. And beauty is a matter of opinion, and not everyone will agree with her praise, and many of those who do will not wish to just because she says so much of it.

I am so sorry you have to leave your "friend-mother," both for her sake and your own. I feel so guilty about it, and shall hardly dare to face her after having been the cause of taking you and perhaps George from her. I am also very sorry you have now no one to look after you when I am not there, you know my dear you are one of those men who can't live without a little wholesome tyranny from their womankind. You must be sure and give her my love when you see her.

Be sure and come as soon as you can conveniently do so, I shall be so glad to see you. Of course you understand I am not flattering you! I only find it rather hard without some one to tyrannize over! I hope your rooms are as pleasant as you thought them first. Be careful and don't sit up too late at night. I hate leaving you with those specifications when I might have been some help copying them. What does Papa say about the papers you forwarded him, and does he think you have covered up the hole now. I want to know what he thinks of your plan of selling your patent, and all about yourself and your ideas, so far as you consider possible for a poor ignorant, feeble-minded woman to understand. Of course you must not waste your time writing to me too often though it is hard to see a day pass without word from you.

With much love, Your, Mabel.

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P.S. I can't help it I must add a postscript to remind you that if you had been a burglar you would not have tried to enter by the front door at all, so don't miscall entrance without

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warning burglarious entrance . Also please excuse my last epistle I was in a hurry and did not reread it and hardly remember what it contained.